

## **REMARKS**

After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 19 and 25-64. The Applicant would first like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of the subject matter disclosed in claim 18 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 18. Claims 24-64 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

### **Independent Claim 1**

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 18 which was indicated during the appeal to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Allowance of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 15 and 19 all ultimately depend from independent claim 1, thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are equally allowable. Allowance of claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 15 and 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

Newly added dependent claims 25-39 were added to further clarify the invention of independent claim 1, as claims 25-39 all ultimately depend from independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are equally allowable. Allowance of claims 25-39 is therefore respectfully requested.

### **Newly Added Independent Claims 40 and 59**

Newly added independent claims 40 and 59 also include all the limitations of claim 18 which was indicated during the appeal to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 40 and 59 are allowable over the cited prior art. Allowance of independent claims 40 and 59 is respectfully requested.

Newly added dependent claims 41-58 were added to further clarify the invention of independent claim 40, as claims 41-58 all ultimately depend from independent claim 40, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are equally allowable. Allowance of claims 41-58 is therefore respectfully requested.

Newly added dependent claims 60-64 were added to further clarify the invention of independent claim 59, as claims 60-64 all ultimately depend from independent claim 59, it is

respectfully submitted that these claims are equally allowable. Allowance of claims 60-64 is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 19 and 25-64 are now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 212-790-6348, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining issues.

Date: February 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

*Giuseppe Molaro*

By: Giuseppe Molaro

52,039

(Reg. No.)

For: Brian M. Rothery

**JONES DAY**

222 East 41st Street

New York, New York 10017

(212) 326-3939

35,340

(Reg. No.)

Attachment